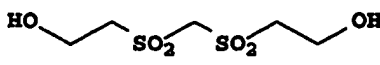


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process comprising reacting an ~~multi~~
(~~primary alcohol-sulfone~~) compound represented by the formula:



with a reducing agent and a halogenating agent in the presence of a solvent that does not appreciably react with the halogenating agent and in the presence of an amide compound present in an amount of less than 1 part amide per part of ~~multi~~ (~~primary alcohol sulfone~~) to form a ~~multi~~-(~~primary~~ halosulfone), wherein the amide compound is represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R, R', and R'' groups are branched, unbranched or cyclic alkyl groups or substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups;

and then, without isolating the halosulfone, converting the halosulfone into a vinylsulfone by contact with a base selected from the alkali metal carbonates, bicarbonates, formates, acetates, and propionates in the presence of a solvent and water.

2.-5. Canceled

2 6. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the halogenating agent is a chlorinating or brominating agent.

3 7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the halogenating agent is thionyl bromide or thionyl chloride.

4 8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the halogenating agent is thionyl chloride.

9. (Canceled)

5 10. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9 1 wherein R is a branched or unbranched alkyl group, aromatic group, or hydrogen.

6 11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9 1 wherein R is hydrogen, methyl or an aromatic group.

7 12. (Currently amended) The process of claim 9 1 wherein R' and R'' are branched or unbranched alkyl groups or an aryl group.

8 13. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the amide is present in an amount less than 1.0 part amide per part of the ~~multi~~-alcoholsulfone.

9 14. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the amide is present in an amount less than 0.5 parts amide per part of the ~~multi~~-alcoholsulfone.

10 15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the amide is present in an amount 0.1 to 0.4 parts amide per part of the ~~multi~~-alcoholsulfone

11 16. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the solvent in the halosulfone forming step is one that doesn't appreciably react with the halogenating reagents.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

12 19. (Currently amended) The process of claim 17 1 wherein the solvent in the converting step is selected from acetone, heptane, ethyl acetate and an amide containing solvent.

13 20. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 including the preliminary step of extracting the ~~multi~~ (primary alcohol) sulfone from an aqueous reaction mixture.